

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06669 180411Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OC-06
CCO-00 A-01 AID-05 OPR-02 SES-02 SAA-01 SY-05
/104 W

-----017505 180415Z /21

O R 180318Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PEKING
CINCPAC
CINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 6669

E.A. GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINR, AF
CINCPAC: FOR POLAD
CINCEUR: FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: KABUL REMAINS CALM AS CIVILIAN TAKEOVER OF ARMED
FORCES APPEARS UNCHALLENGED

REF: KABUL 6668

1. AS OF 0730 LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 18, KABUL REMAINS QUIET AND LIFE
APPEARS NORMAL. THE TANKS STATIONED AROUND RADIO AFGHANISTAN
(NEXT TO THE EMBASSY) AND INSIDE THE FORMER PALACE GROUNDS ARE
STILL UNSHROUDED, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THEIR CREWS ARE
ON AN UNUSUALLY HIGH STATE OF ALERT. IN CONTRAST TO RECENT NIGHTS,
THERE WAS NO OVERNIGHT AIR ACTIVITY, WHICH COULD SUGGEST THAT
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ALL PLANES IN THE COUNTRY MIGHT HAVE BEEN GROUNDED FOR THE TIME
BEING.

2. THE PREVAILING CALM SUGGESTS THAT THE REGIME HAS CARRIED OUT
THE ARRESTS OF GENERALS QADER AND SHAHPOOR WITHOUT
PROVOKING ANY MAJOR INITIAL REACTION. THIS INDICATES THAT TARAKI
AND AMIN MUST HAVE MADE THOROUGH PREPARATIONS PRIOR TO THESE

ARRESTS. NEVERTHELESS, WITH THE COMING OF DAYLIGHT,
OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES COULD CONCEIVABLY BREAK OUT. WE REMAIN
ALERT, AND WE WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ANY OVER ACTION
BY DISSIDENT FORCES TAKE PLACE.

DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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